other recommendations for the affected workers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Second National Commission on Labour has recommended that the provisions of Chapter V-B pertaining to permission for closure should be made applicable to all establishments if they are employing 300 or more workers. All dues of the workers have to be first settled as a precondition to retrenchment or closure.

In case of retrenchment, the profit-making units shall be required to pay sixty days wages as compensation for every completed year of service and the establishments which are making losses will have to pay 45 days wages as compensation. In case of closure, the units which have been incurring losses continuously for three years or more will pay 30 days wages for every completed year of service as compensation and the establishments which are not making losses but want to close down shall pay 45 days wages as compensation. Units employing less than 100 workers will have to pay 50% of the amount mentioned above as compensation for retrenchment and closure.

Recommendations of Second National Commission on Labour are under consideration of the Government of India.

Tripartite talks on recommendation of National Labour Commission

980. SHRIS.VIDUTHALAIVIRUMBI: SHRI C.RTHIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would hold tripartite talks on recommendations made by the National Labour Commission, recently; and

(b) if so, what are the norms Government would prescribe for inviting the labour unions for talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government has already intiated the process of tripartite consultations and there is a continuing interaction

with the stake holders including Trade Unions to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour. The Report of the Commision was discussed in the Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September, 2002 and in a two-day National Seminar on Un-organised Sector Labour on 7-8 November, 2002. Government is also planning to convener tripartite committee meeting in February, 2003. All stake holders would be involved in the ongoing process of consultation.

Pending cases of EPF and Pension accounts

981. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending for settlement of EPF and Pension accounts all over the counry;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for pendency of such large number of cases;

(d) whether Government have formulated a plan to reorganise EPF Organisation all over the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken for inclusion of unorganised labour in EPFO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Region-wise figure of pending claims under EPF & Pension Scheme as on 31.3.2002, is enclosed as Statement (See below).

(c) Delays generally occur due to submission of incomplete informaiton and improper attestation of forms by the subscribers.

(d) and (e) Employees Provident Fund Organisation has taken up a modernisation programme, which will enable the subscribers to access their accounts and file their claims from any of the EPF offices as against the present system which limit them only to one office, where they are registered.

(f) Possibilities are being explored by the Government for extending pension coverage to identifiable groups who are presently not covered under the EPF Scheme.